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(c) As mutually agreed by USDA and the Department of the Army Corps of Engineers, the report and EIS are forwarded to Congress through appropriate channels after technical, public, and interagency reviews in accordance with NRCS policy as described in § 622.34, or in accordance with the Corps of Engineers' policy concerning technical and public review. Implementation of these plans is contingent on congressional action.

§ 621.31 Who may request assistance.

Any organization, group, or State or local government may request assistance.

§ 621.32 How to request assistance.

Applicants for a joint investigation and report should request their congressional representative(s) to initiate appropriate action under Pub. L. 87-639.

§ 621.33 Conditions for approval.

A joint investigation and report is authorized by a resolution of the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the U.S. Senate or the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the U.S. House of Representatives. Studies are initiated when funds for them are appropriated by the Congress.

§ 621.34 Recipient responsibility.

Participating local and State governments work with USDA and the Department of the Army representatives in developing objectives, collecting data, analyzing problems, planning and formulating proposals, and considering financial plans. Active public participation is solicited in the planning process through means such as questionnaires, public meetings, citizen advisory boards, and technical committees.

Subpart E—Interagency Coordination

§ 621.40 Participation in Federal interagency policy activities at the national level.

(a) Policy development in water and related land resources is coordinated at the Federal level through the Cabinet Council on Natural Resources and Environment. NRCS provides staff sup-

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port and representation in these activities as requested.

(b) Within the Department, all interested USDA agencies participate in water policy development through the USDA Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Water Issues Work Group.

(c) NRCS provides appropriate staff support when requested for committees, work groups, and task forces established for interagency coordination of water resources related activities of Federal agencies.

§ 621.41 Participation in Federal-State policy and planning activities at the regional level.

(a) NRCS has a responsibility to represent the Department when needed to assist regional water planning entities and interagency committees which coordinate water resources planning activities.

(b) For the Arkansas-White-Red Basin Interagency Committee (AWRBIAC) and the Pacific Southwest Interagency Committee (PSIAC), the USDA member periodically serves as chairperson and provides an executive secretary. For the Southeast Basin Interagency Committee (SEBIAC), NRCS periodically provides an executive secretary for the chairperson, who is a State government official.

(c) Under the leadership of NRCS, other USDA agencies, principally the Forest Service and Economic Research Service, also participate.

§ 621.42 Federal-State compacts.

NRCS is designated to represent USDA in assisting the U.S. Commissioners of the Delaware River Basin Commission and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission. In carrying out this responsibility, NRCS provides a liaison officer to work with the U.S. Commissioners on policy level matters, as well as providing the USDA representatives on the Federal field committees to assist the Commissioners.

§ 621.43 Interstate compacts and commissions.

As assigned, an NRCS State Conservationist is the USDA point of contact for governing bodies of interstate compacts and commissions concerned

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with the conservation, development, and proper use of water, soil, and related resources.

§ 621.44 Special studies.

As designated, NRCS represents USDA on special study groups such as for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program Studies.

§ 621.45 Flood insurance studies.

As requested by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and within the limits of available resources, NRCS carries out flood insurance studies of various types under the National Flood Insurance Program (Pub. L. 90-448, 82 Statute, 574 (42 U.S.C. 4012)), as amended. In this activity, NRCS performs detailed technical studies to determine the extent and frequency of flooding. The flood insurance program is administered by FEMA. NRCS is reimbursed by that agency for actual costs incurred in carrying out the studies. Local entities desiring flood insurance coverage should contact the responsible State agency or FEMA and apply in accordance with procedures of that agency.

PART 622—WATERSHED PROJECTS

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AUTHORITY: Pub. L. 83-566, 68 Stat. 666 as amended (16 U.S.C. 1001, *et seq.*); Pub. L. 78-534, 58 Stat. 889, 33 U.S.C. 701b-1.

SOURCE: 49 FR 6078, Feb. 17, 1984, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General

§ 622.1 Purpose.

This part sets forth the general policies for planning and carrying out watershed projects under Pub. L. 83-566, 68 Stat. 666 (16 U.S.C. 1001 *et seq.*) and flood prevention projects under Pub. L. 78-534, 58 Stat. 889 (33 U.S.C. 701b-1).

§ 622.2 Scope.

(a) To assist sponsors in preparing and carrying out watershed plans, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) shall conduct investigations and surveys, with the cooperation and assistance of other Federal agencies, to:

(1) Determine the extent of watershed problems and needs, and

(2) Set forth viable alternative solutions consistent with local, regional, and national objectives, including an alternative solution which makes the greatest net contribution to national economic development.

(b) Alternatives will consist of either land treatment, nonstructural or structural measures, or combinations thereof that will help accomplish one or more of the authorized project purposes.

(c) Authorized project purposes are watershed protection, conservation and proper utilization of land, flood prevention, agricultural water management including irrigation and drainage, public recreation, public fish and wildlife, municipal and industrial water supply, hydropower, water quality management, ground water supply, agricultural pollution control, and other water management.

(d) After a final plan for works of improvement is agreed upon between NRCS and the sponsors and the approval processes are completed, NRCS will provide technical and financial assistance to install the project, subject to the availability of funds and the budgeting and fiscal policies of the President.